

for so that the Social Security trust fund is not diminished.

Secondly, I want to thank Mr. WALDEN and Mr. REED for their service on the conference committee; it cannot be an easy conference. I would just ask that as you go forward, you be guided by what Leader CANTOR has said. What Leader CANTOR has said is that we should pass what we can agree on, and we should leave the issues on which we can't agree to another day. It certainly appears as if we agree that we need to extend the payroll tax deduction, we need to fix the SGR, and we need to pass unemployment insurance.

So, let's pass it. Let's leave to another day contentious issues like mercury emissions, like the Keystone pipeline, like drug testing. Let's pass what we can agree on. Let's debate those other issues—they're important, they deserve a full debate—but let's not let them stand in the way of a tax cut for 160 million Americans, access to Medicare physicians for 50 million Americans, and keeping millions of Americans at least with some lifeline with respect to unemployment insurance.

I urge my colleagues to support this motion to recommit, and I thank the gentleman from Oregon for a spirited debate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

FRANK CUSHING

(Mr. LEWIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, our Capitol Hill community has endured a great loss this week with the passing of our dear friend, Frank Cushing. Frank passed away early Monday morning after a year-long battle with cancer. He was 59 years old.

Frank Cushing left his mark on public policy through more than 30 years of public service in the House and the Senate.

For those people who understand just how important fine staff are to our ability in the House and the Senate to more effectively serve our public, I know of no public servant who has greater respect in this community, indeed, around the country, than Frank Cushing.

We will be holding a memorial service commemorating Frank's work on our behalf next Monday at 3 p.m. The details regarding that service will be in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I urge all Members who know and love Frank Cushing to come together and focus upon his service.

PRO-CHOICE CAUCUS

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, there are few things more universal to the health and lives of women than birth control. It is basic health care. It's essential to women's economic independence and professional fulfillment. In fact, with the swearing-in of our new colleague from Oregon, we now have 94 women in Congress. My guess is there would be about half that number without the benefit of contraceptives. That all began 40 or 50 years ago.

So, when the Speaker said this morning that Congress must overturn the President's policy "acting on behalf of the American people," I'm not really sure what he's talking about because the President's decision is on the right side of common sense, sound science, and public opinion. It enjoys support from a majority of Americans and a majority of Catholics.

Let me add that many of my House colleagues who want to deny access to contraception are the same ones who want to cut programs that help women and families facing unwanted pregnancies.

I applaud the President for standing up to reactionary forces and standing up for women's health care and women's freedom.

STOCK ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, from Main Street to Wall Street, it is common knowledge that insider trading of stocks is a crime. In 2004, celebrity homemaker Martha Stewart was sentenced to 5 months in prison. In 2011, Wall Street titan Raj Rajaratnam was sentenced to 11 years in prison for profiting from stocks bought and sold on insider information.

Despite these headline-grabbing convictions, when it comes to Members of Congress, the law of the land clearly does not apply. In the Halls of Congress, there are no clear laws preventing Members of Congress from using their public office to obtain insider information and trade stocks for private enrichment. We thought last week when the Senate passed the STOCK Act 96-3 that the House would have a chance to follow and that we

would be moving forward to remedy that wrong. We were unfortunately very much wrong. We had had a markup 2 months ago in December on the STOCK Act; and at the last moment, the bill was snatched away, the meeting was adjourned, and we heard no more.

After the Senate passed the bill, the House decided that they indeed would pass one, any kind that was going to be strengthened and made better. We discovered yesterday that what was going to happen was that we would no longer have a freestanding bill, but instead we would have a suspension bill.

Let me take just a second to explain the difference between those two bills. We would have had an opportunity under a regular bill to be able to amend it, and we would have been given the right to recommit. Under suspension, we can do nothing but vote it up or down. This bill, which has the most support that I've seen in my 20 years in Congress, more editorial support all over this country and support in parts of Europe, is more than you can even imagine, and it was simply taken away. Was it made stronger? Absolutely not. We said yesterday that we were afraid the euphemism for making stronger meant that the bill would be gutted, and indeed it was.

The part called "political intelligence," which is an investment that people make in getting political intelligence from Members of Congress and their staff, yields \$402 million a year just simply from information traded from Members of Congress and sold to the clients of hedge fund dealers. We're pretty disappointed about that. It happened in the dark of night. We didn't even know it was going to be in the bill until 10:30.

I was really pleased today to hear from both Senator GRASSLEY and Senator LEAHY of their great disappointment regarding what the House had done, and we are demanding that we have a conference on these two bills so that we can have an opportunity to keep political intelligence in that bill because of its major importance. In fact, if we do nothing, this totally unregulated industry will simply continue to prosper in the shadows with no one watching.

In a way, the STOCK Act is a statement of how we view ourselves, and it certainly is the relationship to those that we serve. It's a reflection of our role as public citizens and knowledge that while we may receive the honors and power conferred by our service, we ourselves are equal in our rights and responsibilities just as every other single American citizen. No matter how powerful our position, no matter how hallowed the Halls we walk, no one here is above the law.

□ 1730

With the passage of the STOCK Act, Congress could have moved one step closer to living up to the faith and trust bestowed upon us by the American people, citizens for whom we